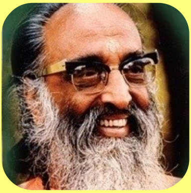
# Patrika

## Chinmaya Mission Los Angeles

MAY 2014



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**CHINMAYA MISSION LOS ANGELES**

*Vedanta, Wisdom, Spiritual Growth*

**Chinmaya Rameshwaram**
**14451 Franklin Ave**
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**USA**
losangeles@chinmayamission.org

*Over Thirty Years Of Service To Humanity*

## Upcoming Events

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Agoura Hills BV Graduation | Jun 1 | 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm |
| Siddhi Vinayak BV, Brea Graduation | Jun 1 | 2:00 pm |
| Antelope Valley BV Graduation | Jun 6 | 5:00 pm |
| Welcome to CHYKWEST Event for 12th Grade Graduates | Jun 8 | 8:00 am |
| CHYK & Rameshwaram BV Graduation | Jun 8 | 8:00 am - 2:00 am |
| South Bay BV Graduation | Jun 8 | 3:00 pm |
| Valmiki Ramayan Discourse Series with Swami Ishwarananda | Jun 9-13 | 6:30 am - 7:30 am<br>7:30 pm - 8:30 pm |
| Inspirational Leadership CORP Workshop | Jun 14 | 9:30 am - 5:30 pm |
| Summer Sunday Sessions | Jun 15 onwards | |
| Upanishad Ganga Video Series | | 10:00 am - 10:30 am |
| Lively discussion with Swamiji | | 10:30 am - 11:15 am |
| Yoga/Art classes & Video for children | | 10:00 am - 11:15 am |
| Assembly & Aarti | | 11:15 am - 11:30 am |
| Kathak Dimensions a Kalanjali Performance | Jun 15 | 6:00 pm |

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## Thus Spake The Master

*Satsang is not mere company of the wise. A Mumukshu gains in spirituality every moment of his stay in his Guru's presence. How?*

*He watches every action of his Guru, hears every word He utters, and comes to know every thought He thinks. In short, the development of the disciple depends upon his capacity to tune himself to his Guru. The tuning to the wise* ***is Satsang.***

*- Swami Chinmayananda*

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## THINK!

*Destination decides the vehicle you need for the journey…*
*If pleasure is your chosen, wealth is vehicle.*

*If eminence is destination, authority is vehicle.*
*If love is destination, heart is vehicle.*
*If devotion is destination, service is vehicle.*
*If wisdom is destination, knowledge is vehicle.*
*If liberation is destination, faith is vehicle.*
*- Swami Ishwarananda*

***For e-Satsang blog, click here***

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## CMLA Centers Hold Graduation Ceremonies

Several centers of Chinmaya Mission Los Angeles held their Bala Vihar graduation ceremonies in mid-May in the presence of Swami Ishwarananda and Acharya Mahadevji.

For parents it was a moment of pride to see their children continue on the path of learning. For children it was a joyous stepping stone. For the teachers, without whose dedication it would not be possible to keep the BalaVihar program successful, it was a day of well deserved satisfaction.

### San Gabriel

On May 17, the San Gabriel balavihar held its formal graduation ceremony. It began with the passing of the torch of knowledge from Acharya Mahadevanji to the youngest graduating child. This was done with the chanting of the Shikshavalli from the Taittiriya Upanishad.

Earlier, Mahadevanji addressed the children and parents and imparted words of advise to them.

On the occasion, the children showcased what they had learned through the year with class presentations. The Hindi, Telugu and Tamil classes also impressed the gathering with their display of learning.

A video was presented which captured the growth over time of the five students who are graduating from balavihar and 12th grade this year. Each of them spoke about their individual experiences going through the balavihar program and how it had helped shape their values.

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The graduation program ended with Gita chanting awards and certificates which was presented by Viji Mahadev, along with recognition of teachers and volunteers. The event concluded with a grand dinner which was served by all the fathers.

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# Valley

San Fernando Valley and Simi Valley Balvihar students participated in the graduation ceremony on May 18. The event emceed by two students from the senior class, was a blend of learning and fun.

The graduation program started with a traditional welcome to Swami Ishwarananda followed by the chanting of the Guru Stotram by the entire congregation.

After this there were presentations by the different classes. A Hindi poem with recited with enthusiasm by the little ones. The recitation of the alphabet values from the Vedantic perspective was fascinating in its profoundness, yet marked by simplicity.

Children then exhibited their knowledge of the different avatars of Lord Vishnu. The skit from the Sunderkanda of Ramayana was appreciated by parents. Senior students shared the character traits and the lessons learned from their favorite Mahabharata character.

The program had some lighter moments when Narendra Modi's victory in the recently concluded elections in India was deliberated on through a short skit. Some of the students and parents also shared the importance of balavihar in their lives.

Swamiji enlightened those gathered with a short story: a person on a visit to heaven, went from room to room. The room where prayers were being received with accompanying requests for favors from the Lord was jam packed; the adjoining room meant for prayers to thank the lord had only one person sitting there. The essence of the story being, Swamiji said, is that we have to learn to be thankful to the Lord every single moment of our lives. Parents, he said, have to take charge of their child's behavior as it was a reflection of how parents interact at home, with each other and with their children.

The ceremony concluded with arati and prasad.

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## Redlands

Redlands Balavihar, the youngest among the CMLA centers, celebrated its 4th graduation ceremony on May 18.

The invocation began with chanting of the Guru Stotram followed by an inspirational speech by Acharya Mahadevanji who elucidated on the impact a teacher can make in the life of a student by narrating a true story from the childhood experience of Dr.Abdul Kalam, the former President of India. It was the influence of is teacher, Mahadevanji said, that directed the distinguished leader to make his passion for science into his profession and excel in it.

Bala Vihar children then showed the gathering of parents and family what they had learned in the current year.

From Pre k-Grade1, each little one spoke a few sentences about one value they liked from the Bala Vihar Alphabet. It was amazing to watch what these young tots were capable of!

The grades 2- 5 class enacted a play written by the students themselves.  As it was the Bala Bhagavatam that they had studied this year, the depicted The Churning of the Ocean. With their colorful costumes and actions, it was a treat to watch the play.

Truth
Selfless
Prayer
Friendship
Cleanliness
C is for Cleanliness
Ahimsa
Respect
Japa

The final presentation was by students from Grade 6 and above who chose to act out a scene from the Mahabharata and relate it to the teaching of the saints that they had learned about.  It was pleasing to see the kids connecting philosophy and story.

CMLA Redlands

Mahadevanji then led the graduation ceremony with the chanting of the Shikshavalli. All the parents present felt a sense of joy seeing the lit candle - a representation of knowledge - being passed from the older to the youngest child.

On the occasion dedicated teachers and volunteers who work toward another successful year at the Redlands balavihar were acknowledged and appreciated for their seva.

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## CORP Holds Talk on Leadership Skills

CMLA now has a new group – the Chinmaya Organization For Responsible Professionals. The group will endeavor to bring together leaders from cross-disciplinary backgrounds for providing insights and guidelines to working professionals to improve lifecycle of business processes. It seeks to improve the corporate ethos in executives resulting in increased dynamism, reinforced people-management skills and strengthened stress management techniques.

On May 18, CORP held a talk by Sat Parashar PhD, adjunct faculty from University of California San Diego, Rady School of Management, at Chinmaya Rameshwaram where he gave practical tips on developing leadership skills. For the young in the audience, it was something to think about and work on in their places of study, for the adults present it was about learning what to take to the work place and indeed every aspaect of their lives.

How to elicit the desired behavior from others? What do people want? What motivates them? What is the goal of work and life? What is the formula of success? After going through the substantial points that authors like Stephen Covey, Jim Collins and John Maxwell make, Parashar addressed the questions in the context of real life with tie-ins to the spiritual teachings enshrined in the Bhagavad Gita.

From Chapter 18, he delineated on the advise given by Lord Krishna:

*Kaccidetacchrutam partha tvayaikagrena cetsa*
*Kaccidajnanasammoham pranastaste dhananjaya*
Educate, suggest; never insist
Help clear up confusion

And again from Chapter 18, he threw light on the formula for success:

*Yatra yogesvarah krsno yatra partho dhanurdharah*

*Tatra srirvijyo bhutirdhruva nitirmatirmama*

Krishna and Arjuna symbolize vision and focused action which together can only bring success, Parashar said. CORP will hold similar talks and workshops through the year as a modular program for leaders and would-be leaders who are keen to achieve their personal and organizational (national, family, company, business, not-for-profit) objectives through their inspirational leadership.

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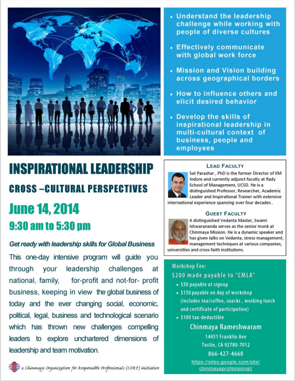
## Upcoming CORP Workshop on Inspirational Leadership



- Understand the leadership challenge while working with people of diverse cultures
- Effectively communicate with global work force
- Mission and Vision building across geographical borders
- How to influence others and elicit desired behavior
- Develop the skills of inspirational leadership in multi-cultural context of business, people and employees

**INSPIRATIONAL LEADERSHIP**

**CROSS –CULTURAL PERSPECTIVES**

**June 14, 2014**

**9:30 am to 5:30 pm**

***Get ready with leadership skills for Global Business***

This one-day intensive program will guide you through your leadership challenges at national, family, for-profit and not-for- profit business, keeping in view the global business of today and the ever changing social, economic, political, legal, business and technological scenario which has thrown new challenges compelling leaders to explore unchartered dimensions of leadership and team motivation.

*a Chinmaya Organization for Responsible Professionals (CORP) initiative*

**LEAD FACULTY**

Sat Parashar , PhD is the former Director of IIM Indore and currently adjunct faculty at Rady School of Management, UCSD. He is a distinguished Professor, Researcher, Academic Leader and Inspirational Trainer with extensive international experience spanning over four decades .

**GUEST FACULTY**

A distinguished Vedanta Master, Swami Ishwarananda serves as the senior monk at Chinmaya Mission. He is a dynamic speaker and has given talks on Vedanta, stress management, management techniques at various companies, universities and cross-faith institutions.

Workshop Fee:

$200 made payable to "CMLA"

- $50 payable at signup
- $150 payable on day of workshop (includes tea/coffee, snacks , working lunch and certificate of participation)
- $100 tax-deductible

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https://sites.google.com/site/chinmayaprofessional/

CORP is organizing an executive learning workshop on 'Inspirational Leadership with Cross-Cultural Perspectives' on June 14th at Chinmaya Rameshwaram.

The all-day workshop is a modular program for leaders and would-be leaders who are keen to achieve their personal and organizational (national, family, company, business, not-for-profit) objectives through their inspirational leadership.

Sat Parashar, PhD And Swami Ishwarananda synergize to deliver a knowledge-packed training workshop on how to develop the skill of inspirational leadership in cross-cultural work environments. Learn directly from the Masters the art to outperform leadership precedents and foster positive global relationships.

Click here to register for the workshop and to get detailed agenda. Contact the CORP team by phone at 866-427-4660 or by email at corpchinmayaprofessionals@gmail.com for more details.

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## Children Honor Their Mothers, Gratitude Expressed at Gurudev Jayanti

At Chinmaya Rameshwaram, balavihar children showed their deep respect and love for their mothers by doing the matru puja. Sitting at the feet of their parent, they offered flowers and kumkum while the mothers looked overwhelmed and touched by it all.

Fathers pitched in too on the occasion of Mothers Day by cooking lunch for all. The scene was one of jokes and laughter as the men folk took on full kitchen duties but the food that emerged on plates delighted all.

brahmarpanam

It was all the day to remember Pujya Gurudev, and in gratitude the congregation paid homage to him with puja and chanting of the Guru Stotram and Chinmaya Namavali.

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## Valley BVs Mark Mothers Day, Remember Gurudev

The San Fernando Valley and Simi Valley Bala Vihars celebrated Pujya Gurudev Swami Chinmayananda's Jayanti and Mothers day on May 11.

The day began with the regular opening prayers and the chanting of the Guru Stotram which took on more significance on this day, with Gurudev on everyone's mind. After this children with great joy ushered their moms to be seated. While the Matra Stavanam Stotram was being chanted, each child worshipped their mother, offering tilak, rice and flowers at her feet. After this, puja was conducted to the chanting of the 108 Chinmaya Namavali. The day concluded with arati and prasad.

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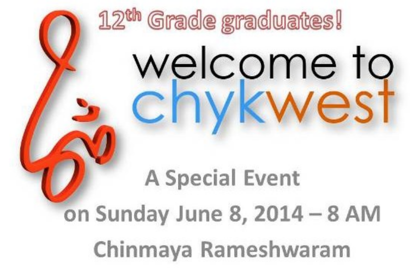
## CHYK West Welcome for 12th Grade Graduates


12th Grade graduates!

welcome to chykwest

A Special Event
on Sunday June 8, 2014 – 8 AM
Chinmaya Rameshwaram

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## Annual CMLA Yatra to Vietnam and Laos

Hari Om! CMLA is organizing this year's annual yatra with Swami Ishwaranandaji & Acharya Mahadevanji to Vietnam and Laos. Yatra dates are Dec 2-12, 2014. Participants will be leaving US on Nov 30th and returning on Dec 13th.

This will be 9th yatra. Earlier yatras covered Char Dham, Kailash, Amarnath, South Indian Temples, Cambodia, Thailand, Bali, East to West Indian temples and Sri Lanka. CMLA Annual Yatras are well participated by Chinmaya Mission members from all over North America. Seats are limited and fill up very soon.

Last date for registration is June 15th. For details, please contact Shashi Acharya by phone: 714-749-0808 or by email: shashi350@gmail.com.

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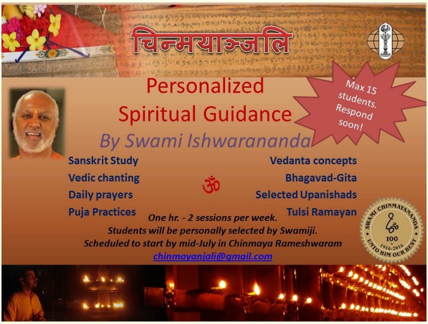
## Personalized Spiritual Guidance from Swami Ishwarananda


चिन्मयाञ्जलि

Personalized Spiritual Guidance
By Swami Ishwarananda

Max 15 students. Respond soon!

- Sanskrit Study
- Vedic chanting
- Daily prayers
- Puja Practices
- Vedanta concepts
- Bhagavad-Gita
- Selected Upanishads
- Tulsi Ramayan

One hr. - 2 sessions per week.

Students will be personally selected by Swamiji.
Scheduled to start by mid-July in Chinmaya Rameshwaram
chinmayanjali@gmail.com

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## Chinmaya Community Calendar

As Chinmaya Mission LA member you can now create your own calendar of events and invite Chinmaya members for your events. This Chinmaya network also includes features to offer professional/personal help to fellow members as well as to request help!

Please follow the link below and login with your username (email ID which you used to register for CMLA Balvihar) and password (your last name, first letter in capital or the password you have been using to register in Balvihar).

http://1-dot-premium-state-458.appspot.com/

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Please send articles and pictures for publication to Nimmi Raghunathan at nimmicmla@gmail.com

*Many thanks for this issue to: Vidhya Ravi, Madhu Sharma, Gani Ganapathy, Matt Petrime*